



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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District of Arizona*

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COUPLE SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR SMUGGLING CHILD INTO THE U.S.

TUCSON – Dulce Rodriguez, 19, of Sierra Vista, Ariz. was sentenced here today to 16 months in prison, and two years of supervised release, by U.S. District Judge John M. Roll. Her co-defendant, Pedro Garcia-Meraz, also 19, of Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico, was given the same sentence on April 20, 2007. Both had pleaded guilty to conspiring to transport an illegal alien.

On December 2, 2006, Garcia-Meraz and Rodriguez presented themselves for admission into the United States at the port of entry in Naco, Ariz. They were accompanied by a one year old little boy, who Rodriguez claimed was her son. Rodriguez claimed that both she and the child were U.S. citizens. Further investigation revealed that the child was a Mexican citizen. Garcia-Meraz admitted that he and Rodriguez agreed to smuggle the child into the United States for \$1,000. He was to receive \$300 and Rodriguez was to receive \$700.

The investigation in this case was conducted by Customs and Border Protection, Nogales, of the Department of Homeland Security. The prosecution were handled by Cynthia R. Wood, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

CASE NUMBER: CR-06-2151-TUC
RELEASE NUMBER: 2007-149(Garcia-Meraz & Rodriguez)

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